

## NATURAL RESOURCES CONSERVATION SERVICE CONSERVATION PRACTICE SPECIFICATION

### RESTORATION AND MANAGEMENT OF DECLINING HABITATS

(acre)

#### Code 643

#### GENERAL SPECIFICATION

Procedures, technical details and other information listed below provide additional guidance for carrying out selected components of the named practice. This material is referenced from the conservation practice standard for restoration and management of declining habitats and supplements the requirements and considerations listed therein.

#### PURPOSE

The purpose is to restore and manage wildlife habitat which is declining.

Declining habitats in New Mexico include, but are not limited to:

- Desert grass lands
- Mid- grass prairie
- Old growth ponderosa pine forest
- Riparian forests bordering large streams

This specification is for an overarching management practice. To adequately implement this practice one or more facilitative or accelerating practices would need to be planned, designed, and implemented to restore and manage each of these ecosystems for wildlife habitat. As an example, restoring Ponderosa Pine Forest may require Forest Stand Improvement (666) initially, followed by Prescribed Burning (338) to maintain the open nature and the growth potential of the pine forest. Another example would be restoring Desert Grasslands which may require Brush Management (314) and Prescribed Grazing (528) to restore the grassland and

Prescribed Fire (338) and Prescribed Grazing (528) to maintain the grassland habitat.

Determining the practices and management to restore and maintain declining habitats depends upon the site potential, the desired future condition, and the habitat goals.

#### PLANNING REQUIREMENTS

Determine site potential

Describe desired future condition in relation to wildlife species or suites of species to be benefited.

Determine which, if any, accelerating practices are required for habitat restoration

Determine which management practices will be required to maintain habitat

Determine if any facilitating practices are needed to implement the management strategy.

#### APPLICABLE PRACTICES

Tree/shrub establishment - 612

Brush Management - 314

Fence - 382

Riparian Forest Buffer - 391

Structure for water control - 587

Prescribed Burning - 338

Prescribed Grazing - 528

Forest Stand Improvement - 666

#### PLANS AND SPECIFICATIONS

Specifications for this practice shall be prepared for each habitat type and locality and

Conservation practice general specifications are reviewed periodically, and updated if needed. To obtain the current version, contact the natural resources conservation Service.

## **Specification - 643-2**

for each individual conservation practice needed. Specifications shall be recorded using approved specification sheets, job sheets, narrative statements in the conservation plan, or other acceptable documentation.

### **OPERATION AND MAINTANENCE**

The following actions shall be carried out to insure that this practice functions as intended throughout its expected life. These actions include normal repetitive activities in the application and use of the practice (operation), and repair and upkeep of the practice (maintenance).

Operation: Habitat areas will be monitored at least annually to assure that treatments and management are having desired effects.

Maintenance: As monitoring indicates adjustments to treatments and/or management practices need to be made consultation will be made with the local NRCS conservationist. This consultation will result in changes to planned practices.